

HOUSE BILL 2637
By Bunch

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 16-2-101; Section 16-3-101; Section 16-4-102; Section 16-5-102; Section 17-1-103 and Title 17, Chapter 4, relative to certain judicial elections.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1.

(a) Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 16-2-101(a), is amended by deleting the words, figures and symbols "divided into the three (3) grand divisions described in §§ 4-1-201 -- 4-1-204." and by substituting instead the following:

divided into the three (3) grand divisions as provided in subsections (b), (c) and (d) below.

(b) Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 16-2-101, is amended by deleting subsection (b) and by substituting instead the following subsections:

(b) The eastern division comprises the counties of Anderson, Blount, Bradley, Campbell, Carter, Claiborne, Cocke, Grainger, Greene, Hamblen, Hamilton, Hancock, Hawkins, Jefferson, Johnson, Knox, Loudon, McMinn, Monroe, Polk, Sevier, Sullivan, Unicoi, Union, and Washington.

(c) The middle division comprises the counties of Bedford, Bledsoe, Cannon, Cheatham, Clay, Coffee, Cumberland, Davidson, DeKalb, Fentress, Franklin, Grundy, Jackson, Lincoln, Macon, Marion, Marshall, Meigs, Moore, Morgan, Overton, Pickett, Putnam, Rhea, Roane, Robertson, Rutherford, Scott, Sequatchie, Smith, Sumner, Trousdale, Van Buren, Warren, White, Williamson and Wilson.

(d) The western division comprises the counties of Benton, Carroll, Chester, Crockett, Decatur, Dickson, Dyer, Fayette, Gibson, Giles, Hardeman,

Hardin, Haywood, Henderson, Henry, Hickman, Houston, Humphreys, Lake, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Lewis, Madison, Maury, McNairy, Montgomery, Obion, Perry, Shelby, Stewart, Tipton, Wayne and Weakley.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 16-3-101(a), is amended by deleting the final period "." and by substituting instead the following:

, as defined in § 16-2-101.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 16-4-102, is amended by deleting the words, figures and symbols "of whom not more than four (4) shall reside in one (1) grand division of the state," and by substituting instead the following:

of whom not more than four (4) shall reside in any one (1) grand division of the state, as defined in § 16-2-101,

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 16-5-102, is amended by deleting the words, figures and symbols "of whom not more than four (4) shall reside in any grand division of the state," and by substituting instead the following:

of whom not more than four (4) shall reside in any one (1) grand division of the state, as defined in § 16-2-101.

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 17-1-103, is amended by deleting the section in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

Justices of the supreme court shall be elected by the qualified voters of the state at large, in compliance with the requirements of § 16-3-101. Judges of the court of appeals shall be elected by the qualified voters of the state at large, in compliance with the requirements of § 16-4-102. Judges of the court of criminal appeals shall be elected by the qualified voters of the state at large, in compliance with the requirements of § 16-5-102. Chancellors, circuit judges, and judges of special courts shall be elected by the qualified voters of the respective judicial districts, and special judicial districts.

SECTION 6. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 17, Chapter 4, is amended by deleting Parts 1 and 2.

SECTION 7. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the

act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to that end the provisions of this act are declared to be severable.

SECTION 8. This act shall take effect January 1, 2006, the public welfare requiring it.